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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 263480

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263480

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 13925 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK CANBERRA JAKARTA PARIS PHNOM PENH SAIGON TOKYO WELLINGTON PEKING USUN NEW YOIR CINCPAC DATED 26 NOV 74
QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13925

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS, VN, CB, CH
SUBJECT: FORMOENT-MEURICE VIEWS ON CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. HENRI FROMENT-EURICE, DIRECTOR FOR EAST ASIA AND OCEANIA IN FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SPENT 23 THROUGH 26 NOVEMBER IN MANILA ENROUTE FROM TOKYO TO BANGKOK, JAKARTA, CANBERRA, AND WELLINGTON BEFORE RETURNING HOME TO PARIS. HIS DISCUSSION WITH PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS CONCENTRATED LARGELY ON ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MATTERS, AS AN EXPRESSION OF INCREASING FRENCH INTEREST IN PHILIPPINE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

2. DURING COURSE OF DINNER NOVEMBER 25, I SPOKE WITH HIM AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS CURRENT VIEWS ON CHINA, VIET-NAM AND CAMBODIA, AS WELL AS SOUTHEAST ASIAN GENERALLY. SINCE HE HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN IN WASHINGTON, NONE OF THESE VIEWS WILL BE NOVEL TO THE DEPARTMENT. HOWEVER? TWO OR THREE ITEMS MAY BE OF INTEREST.

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PAGE 02 STATE 263480

3. HE IS FASCINATED BY LE DUC THO VISIT TO PARIS AND

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

INTRIGUED THAT THO'S ENTOURAGE INCLUDES MANY OF HIS FORMER NEGOTIATING PARTNERS IN THE VIET-NAM DISCUSSIONS. HE SPECULATED THAT HANOI MAY BE PREPARING FOR SOME NEW ROUND OF TALKS, POSSIBLY ON CAMBODIA.

4. ON CAMBODIA, HE FULLY EXPECTS GRUNK RESOLUTION TO WIN IN UNGA AND SIHANOUK TO BE RECEIVED IN TRIUMPH BY BOUTEFLIKA, IN THE BEST ARAFAT TRADITION. FROM THIS PINNACLE OF PRESTIGE, HE THINKS SIHANOUK MAY CALL FOR "NEGOTIATIONS" IN PARIS, BUT ON THE CONDITION THAT LON NOL MUST STEP DOWN.

5. HE SEES A PARALLEL BETWEEN THIS PUTATIVE SCENARIO AND HANOI'S INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS SAIGON, WITH LON NOL'S DEMISSION SETTING A PRECEDENT FOR THIEU. HE BELIEVES HANOI EXPECTS TO SUCCEED BY POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY MEANS IN BOTH CASES.

6. HE WILL NOT RPT NOT REPLACE MANAC'H IN PEKING WHEN LATTER RETIRES NEXT MONTH. "THE PRESIDENT" HAS ASKED HIM TO STAY ANOTHER YEAR IN THE ASIAN DIRECTORATE. MANAC'H WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY A CAREER DIPLOMAT. SULLIVAN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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